



Submission to the

Department of Environment, Climate & Communications

On

Food Waste Prevention Roadmap Consultation

From:

**Cré – Composting and Anaerobic Digestion
Association of Ireland**

March 24th, 2022

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1. Introduction

Cré welcomes the opportunity to comment on the public consultation on the Food Waste Prevention Roadmap.

About

Established in 2001, Cré is the Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland. Cré (which is the Irish word for 'soil'), is a non-profit association of public and private organisations, dedicated to growing the biological treatment sector. Cré supports the production of high-quality outputs, assists the delivery of Government waste diversion and bioenergy targets and promotes the creation of sustainable indigenous jobs.

Cré has a broad membership base ranging from compost and anaerobic digestion facilities to waste companies, local authorities, technology providers, local authorities, consultants and third level colleges. Cré is recognised by Government and agencies as the voice of the industry in Ireland and Northern Ireland. It is frequently called upon to give the industry view on future policy and legislation. Cré is a member of the European Compost Network, the European Biogas Association and the Biobased Industries Consortium. Cré has a Board of Directors, and technical committees. See www.cre.ie

In 2019, Cré established a wholly owned subsidiary Cré Certification Ireland DAC to provide certification services for the Cré Compostable Certification Scheme.

Focus of the Cré Submission

Cré's submission is not responding to all the questions in the consultation, but is responding to questions, which are relevant to the collection of food waste, the local processing of food waste and the use of the end products- compost and digestate.

2. Responses

Question 1: Do you think the approach as outlined in the draft Roadmap will deliver the reductions necessary to reduce Ireland's food waste by 50% by 2030?

Cré Comment: No comment.

Question 2: What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?

Cré Comment: WRAP published a report¹ in February 2020 which shows significant association between food waste collection schemes and lower food waste arisings

WRAP regularly calculates the amount of food waste produced in the UK and identifies any factors that might increase it. The report, looks at household food waste collections by local authorities to try and determine whether targeted collection schemes can reduce food waste arisings.

Food waste arisings were compared among local authorities with and without a separate food waste collection, whilst controlling for other factors that are also known to affect food waste arisings (and which might otherwise mask or exaggerate the effect of food waste scheme type). The study covered a five-year period from 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 and included data from 107 local authorities, covering three nations (England, Scotland and Wales).

After taking into account social deprivation, time, and other factors previously reported to influence household food waste arisings, **separate food waste collections were significantly associated with lower total food waste arisings.**

Resources should be put into education on food waste recycling, when people are then engaged with food waste they then change their behaviour and prevent food waste.

Question 3: What are the most effective awareness raising measures that could be taken to reduce food waste?

Cré Comment: As mentioned in the response to question 2, resources should be put into education on food waste recycling, when people are then engaged with food waste they then change their behaviour and prevent food waste. Specifically:

- A coordinated national food waste recycling awareness campaign by mywaste.ie is required to be developed with input from collectors, processors and regulators. Once developed all stakeholders should support the campaign in order for it to be a success.
- Provision of the correct educational tools (kitchen caddy, compostable liners and information leaflet) for all householders on how to recycle food waste.

Question 4: Which sectors or stakeholders do you think should play a key role in the implementation of the Roadmap?

Cré Comment: No comment.

Question 5: Are you satisfied with the proposed Roadmap monitoring and evaluation arrangements?

Cré Comment: No comment.

Question 6: Have you any other comments or feedback on the content of the draft Roadmap?

Cré Comment: No comment.

¹ https://wrap.org.uk/content/impact-food-waste-collections-household-food-waste-arisings?goal=0_b554dd0387-4262bd5a5c-5043289